Famine work in Bellary district.

440 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have called for information promised in reply to question No. 96 put by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council, dated the 16th February 1921 ;

(*b*) whether the Government will now furnish the required information ; and

(*c*) the average daily wages earned week by week by the coolies on the test works since started.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Collector has been requested to furnish the information required and his report is awaited.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

Famine in Bellary.

441 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) if the Government have perused the leader in the *New India* of the 9th February 1921 under the heading 'Is there famine in Bellary' ;

(*b*) if, and when, famine has been declared to exist in the Bellary district, and, if it has not been, the reasons for the delay in declaring it to be so affected ; and

(*c*) whether any work, and if so what work, has been started in or near Kolur village, Bellary district (Bellary taluk), for the relief of the unemployed in the neighbourhood.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Orders were issued on 7th March 1921 declaring as famine areas the eastern part of the Bellary taluk, the north-western part of the Alur taluk, the western part of the Adōni taluk and the Siruguppa taluk.

(*c*) No work has been started at Kolur. A test work was started in the second week of February at Sanavasapuram, near Kolur.

Grant of forest lands to private firms in Bellary district.

442 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) whether entire forests, or disafforested lands, or large extents thereof, have been handed over in the Bellary district to private firms ;

(*b*) if so, what reserves were so handed over, to whom and on what terms ; and

(*c*) whether the Government satisfied themselves, before handing over the areas in question, that the interests of the ryots living in the neighbourhood were not prejudicially affected in the matter of grazing facilities for their cattle, or fuel for their domestic use.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No forest or disafforested lands have been handed over to any firm. But the reserves noted below have been leased since 1914 to Mr. Howes, Government grass contractor, Bellary, who harvests and supplies hay to the Military department. The present lease terminates in September 1921 and the rental is Rs. 350 per annum—

Mincheri reserve.	Ubbalagondi reserve.
Bellary East reserve.	" extension (No. 3).
" West reserve.	Marutla reserve.